

# GOSSIP OF THE NEW YORK THEATERS

New York, Jan. 20.—While the Shubert brothers were of production as to the raising or lowering of box office prices waged with keen spirit, and while Joe Weber and Lew Fields were rehearsing their "act together" with the original members of the old-time company, Winthrop Ames provided the most notable event of the theatrical week by the staging of "Sumurun," the wordless play of Prof. Max Reinhardt, French from triumph in Berlin and London.

An interesting development in the announcement by Charles Frohman, author of "The Teller," the scenario of a new play for the use of Ethel Barrymore. The play will be in English with the principal figure an Englishwoman, wife of a titled Englishman in his country's diplomatic service in France. The wife becomes innocently enrolled in the unexpected discovery of important French military documents that have been stolen by agents of the British Embassy. Much is expected of the play.

Six days have now passed since Weber & Fields began in earnest their preparations for a "come back" and their two "theaters," which will be known as "Honey Pops" and "Honey Pops and Strings," are already rehearsing tangible since Edgar Smith wrote both books, but, as to the Weber-Fields productions of years ago, material is being contributed by practically every member of the band, which most assuredly resembles a well-united happy family. Among other shining lights that participated in the rehearsals during the week at the Broadway were Willie Collier, Edna Russell, Ray Templeton, Ade Lewis, Helena Collier, John T. Kelly, and George Helan. While the principals were "warming up" at the Broadway, the chorus was getting in trim down at Weber's Theater.

Taking the other side of the question from Les Stribert, who declares that admission rates are due to rise, Henry W. Savage has come forth with an extensive explanation of his cutting the prices in his current productions. "Little Boy Blue" and "The Million," adding in prospecting that several other managers will have to follow his example.

"An empty room at a hotel is less in fact, and so is empty at a theater. How much better it is for me to have the balcony at the Lyric filled at \$1 a seat than only half filled at \$1.50. In that way I am keeping my plant working at full time, by offering a bargain that brings a profit not only to me, but to the theatre patron. The policy of small profits consistently repeated is bound to prevail over that of big profits occurring occasionally."

If one would listen to both Savage and Stribert, he would have to conclude one of two things—either there will be much fluctuation of rates in the near future, or there will be no appreciable change at all. In the latter case, the seriousness of these two leading impresarios, genuine successes have been scored by more than the average number of offerings along theatrical lines.

"Sumurun." When "Sumurun" was put on by Winthrop Ames on Tuesday night at the Casino Theater, a play with a history made its American premiere. This most impressive spectacle ever turned out by Max Reinhardt was performed first at the Deutsche Theater, Berlin, in April, 1910. In the following August, Reinhardt carried the company from Berlin down to Munich, where the wordless drama was seen at the Artists' Theater and created a sensation equal to its Berlin victory. In January of last year "Sumurun" in a partially condensed form, began a several months' engagement in London. Last fall it returned to London in its original German form and was welcomed more ardently even than the first time.

It was the complete "Sumurun" that was presented Tuesday at the Casino, even to Prof. Reinhardt's entire company and the orchestra leader, Victor Hollander, who conducted the music for "Sumurun." The stage management is under the direction of Prof. Reinhardt, the personal representative of the play. The story of "Sumurun" is told entirely in action without the use of words. It is a Persian tale, and all the color, grandeur, gorgeousness, and animation of ancient Babylon are revealed in the time tableaux of this drama of love, romance, jealousy, and death. The story of the love of the hunchback shepherd for his dancing slave girl, known as the Beautiful Slave of Babylon, and of Sumurun, the favorite wife of the old sheik, for Narduin, the merchant, and the subsequent commingling of the two stories, ending in the murder by the old sheik of his son and his own death at the hands of the hunchback, is told entirely without spoken word, but so vivid and realistic is the acting of the German company, and so dramatic the story that the spectator is hardly aware of the absence of words.

Prof. Reinhardt called "Sumurun" a pantomime, but the London and Berlin reviewers thought it was a new and startling variety of pantomime as to the dramatic effect of a new art form. Accordingly Prof. Reinhardt labeled it a "wordless play with music." And, in justice to the composer, it must be said that it has real music. The whole thing is entirely different from anything ever before seen in New York.

"The Return from Jerusalem." Those who have witnessed Mrs. Simons' great personal success in her new play, "The Return from Jerusalem," during the week, could not but deplore the fact that she had not chosen it for her American debut. For Mrs. Simons has recorded a tremendous triumph in this piece, after having achieved only possible success in her other offerings.

Maurice Donnan's play, which is showing at the Hudson Theater, proved a most delightful vehicle for the great French actress. In Paris it aroused a tremendous sensation with Mrs. Simons in the leading role, and precipitated anti-Semitic riots during the time of the Dreyfus excitement. But it ran for a week without a spark of interest or prejudice has manifested in the violent discussions of the social conflict between Gentile and Jew. Instead, its fierce clash of opposing natures and wills and its swiftly culminating force stamped itself on the audience first and foremost as a dramatic drama, and it was with interest throughout. However, it must be said that such almost certainly could not have been the case without Mrs. Simons in the part of Henriette.

The latter is a cultured Jewish woman, who has become a Catholic and contracted an unhappy marriage. She meets Michael Aubier, another Catholic, a writer, whose wife leaves him no inspiration, and he deserts her for the passionately loving Jewess. They take a trip to the Holy Land, where the environment overcomes her and reawakens her racial love and spirit. Returned to Paris, one of her old Jewish admirers attempts to enlist Aubier's influence in an altruistic movement for international peace and religious unity. He refuses. She reverts and turns to her own race. Her home is soon overrun with her Jewish friends.

At one of these gatherings the clash



Prominent figures of the week in theatrical New York. Above, on the left, is Julia Dean, in "Bought and Paid For," which has proved a tremendous success at the Playhouse. On the right are Sanderson Moffatt and Molly Pearson, in a touching scene from "Bunty Pulls the Strings," at Collier's Comedy Theater. A scene from "Sumurun," the German novelty wordless play with music, shows Camilla Eibenschuetz and Fritz Fehner, who are presenting the new piece at the Casino. The small portrait (lower left), is of Tully Marshall, who is making a decided hit in "The Talker," at the Harris.

comes. Aubier's inherited antipathy and contempt lead him to heap insults upon her friends, and Henriette is accused in turn. In this complicated scene, Mrs. Simons touches almost every mood and emotion in the range of a human being—sorrow, contempt, fury, hatred, in every infinitesimal part, in the way Henriette goes back to the religion of her fathers and sends her lover home to his wife and children.

Arnold Daly, who appears as Aubier, comes in for a success scarcely less pronounced than Mrs. Simons'.

"A Butterfly on the Wheel."

When an entire play is new excepting one part, and that old part is the only part in which success is scored, it is indeed a peculiar condition of things. But such it is with "A Butterfly on the Wheel," which is showing at the Thirty-ninth Street Theater. The explanation lies in the fact that Miss Madge Titherage, just imported from London, is practically the whole show, and she doesn't get a fair opportunity until the antiquated part of the play is reached.

That part is the last act, which presents a court scene, scene almost a duplicate of those that have been seen by New Yorkers in "The Rank" and "The Woman." But when you say almost a duplicate, you accent the "almost" for the few places in which it varies from the others are a vast improvement upon them.

Miss Titherage plays the part of Peggy Astorian, who becomes involved in an innocent yet foolish and unfortunate affair with a Paris admirer, while her husband is too busy with politics. Through complicated scenes, the action progresses until Peggy is defendant in court. It is a question whether the spectacle of becoming a defenseless woman is agreeable to the audience, even in a drama, but Miss Titherage would be lost in the rest of the play without this chance for exhibiting her wonderful appeal in emotional acting. To judge from her exterior manner and appearance, one would say she is fitted for light parts, but she is really at her height in the kind of scenes made famous by Leslie Carter in her palmy days. Many nice things have been said about Miss Titherage since she captivated her first-night audience, and it is not amiss to venture that we shall enjoy an extended visit in this country, if she so wishes.

FIREMAN'S EASY JOB.

Work in Cold Weather Compensated for Pleasant Summer Loading.

In long last summer days when fires are frequent and the men of the engine houses spend much time sitting in their shirt sleeves in the shade, talking or smoking, or just whiling away the hours, it is often said that the "firemen have a snap." It did not look that way yesterday, when men, half frozen one minute and in a pit of being scorched by the flames the next, fought down and overcame what might easily have become a tremendous conflagration.

They battled against a gale of piercing wind, with the temperature close to zero, and smoke and steam and freezing spray, they toiled for hours to smother and extinguish a fierce fire in the heart of the business district, and they won their fight. Without them many millions of dollars in buildings and merchandise would have been destroyed.

It does not take much of that sort of service to balance the account with many easy, leisurely days. Constant readiness to do such work, endure such exposure and hardship, and take such risks is worth all that the firemen get, including their pension in their old age, or when broken in health. They are among the bravest and the finest hearted of people.

Japan's Vice Head Goes.

From the New Haven Register.

We think we have terrible fires, and so we do. But for hopeless devastation, which no power at hand can even check, such a fire as Osaka, Japan, had is beyond comparison. The crowded, filthy, built Oriental city is an interesting hazard, and only good fortune prevents it from being a constant terror.

## JULIA MARLOWE'S FAVORITE PICTURE OF SHAKESPEARE.



John Ford's famous group, "Shakespeare and His Contemporaries," is one of the most popular paintings of the Corcoran Gallery at Washington City. W. W. Corcoran, the founder of the gallery, purchased this picture about sixty years ago. It was in his private collection when he gave it to the Corcoran Gallery of Art, on May 10, 1880. The painting bears no date, and it is fifty-three inches in height, by sixty-eight in width. It is the favorite picture of Julia Marlowe, who will appear with R. H. Sothern at the Belasco Theater, week of February 13.

"The choice of the Chander and the so-called Shakespeare portraits as models by John Ford was a happy selection. This beautiful likeness of Shakespeare is the one which comes nearest to our ideal of the poet's outer presentation. We have, I believe, but one personal description of the Bard, and that from the pen of John Aubrey, who obtained his data from friends of the poet. Shakespeare, he wrote, displayed in his dress some degree of refinement harmonizing with the expression of his pale, tranquil face, his intellectual forehead, and thoughtful eyes.

The Ely Palace and the Droeshout are nothing like so agreeable as the Stratford and Chander portraits. In the latter, the poet, except for the mustache, is smooth shaven. While the Stratford and Chander likenesses may be purely imaginary compositions, they better satisfy the mind; they are more agreeable and pleasing.

"John Ford's selection, therefore, long ago met with popular approval, has secured to immortalize a poor Scotch artist who would otherwise be unknown. He had a long life—born in 1592, he did not pass away until 1622. Pictures of this kind seem to 'run in the family,' as the saying goes, for his brother, Thomas, achieved lasting fame in consequence of his picture of Sir Walter Scott and the latter's portrait of John Ford, which is a spirited and popular composition.

"It is doubtful if any modern painting has been so frequently engraved as John Ford's 'Shakespeare and His Contemporaries.' It is to be found in almost every household in some form or other, where the steel engraving, copper plate, or photograph are looked on with reverence. On account of the beauty of the picture as well as an innate love of Shakespeare and his works, many have given it a place in the study wall.

"In supplying portraits for the per-

sonages of this charming group other than Shakespeare, the artist was on surer and safer ground. Likenesses in one form or another of Shakespeare's contemporaries came easily to hand.

"It is a curious circumstance that of these fourteen known acquaintances of the Bard of Avon, but one of the group mentioned him in his work, the same being Ben Jonson. Some of the persons in this picture are now almost entirely unknown—except, of course, to enthusiastic students of English literature. The most inconsequential of the group—Sylvester, Camden, and Daniel—had immortality at hand with a stroke of the pen. Little did these men imagine the opportunity that was open before them when they gave it to the Corcoran Gallery of Art, on May 10, 1880.

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## THANKS OF SKIBO'S FEAT.

Mr. Carnegie Invents a New Definition of "Nonsense."

New York, Jan. 20.

What truer to one of the most precious of our institutions spread the yarn that Mr. Carnegie wouldn't appear before the Stanley committee unless he was subpoenaed? The Carnegie University settlement in Washington is a fixed feast of wisdom. The country expects it; the Thane insists on it; if necessary, he would have subpoenaed the committee to appear before him. The committee did appear before him, and only one or two unfeeling voices jarred that sweet Andrew sympathy. Mr. Committee-man McGillicuddy, a freshly caught Maine Democratic, referred to the personage of the steel star as "nonsense." Mr. McGillicuddy has no soul for sustained and finished character acting. More penetrating critics do justice to an accomplished actor who dramatizes himself and is here and there, is it "nonsense to be soiled in a paper jacket galled by heat? Is it 'nonsense' to hear of the 'millionaire' three days counting himself, that the Thane has made? It is delightful to listen to the artless profile of a friend of humanity, to find the white butterfly of business drifting from power to flower of reminiscence or upturn, to know once more that marvelous, convenient, adjustable memory and forgettery.

Why do the heathen wonder that little things like the Sherran have don't dwell in the Thane's demesne of recollection? Indeed, he can't remember taking refuge; even in the bad old days when only light he was, would a railroad have dared to offer rebates to the future friend of humanity? Let sleeping legends lie. As for laws, Mr. Carnegie in his career way wrecks even those of English spelling. Such simplicity, in connection with some other qualities, has enabled him to keep the earth with literary buildings and other temples to his name.

The Thane's present testimony is like so many other chapters of his that have pleased the world. His main purpose is autographing; he needs to close and illustrate himself; occasionally he re-lieves himself and gets a little contrast by examining the committee, which on the whole has been docile and has appreciated the entertainment. The Hon. Augustus Peabody-Gardner, however, is regrettably rude. "I am not here to answer questions," he dares to say. Mr. Gardner should learn his place. He is there, and the rest of the committee is there, to be explored by the Thane when the Thane turns for a moment from egotizing himself. "Ah, but we smile together," happy in the happiness and better for the goodness of a self-effacing benefactor of mankind.

## IT'S HITCHCOCK'S FAULT.

Texas Woman Would Believe Him of Worn of Bachelorhood.

From the Savannah News.

Postmaster General Hitchcock is a bachelor, but he needn't be one any longer than he pleases. The other day he received a dainty, violet-scented note from Texas from a lady who said she was willing to take the heat year privilege and help him out of his difficulty.

The letter was written from Houston, Tex., presumably the writer was one of those red-headed widows that George Bailey is all the time bragging about in the Post.

## NEWS NOTES FROM THE SCHOOLS.

Ernest L. Thurston, our assistant superintendent of schools, is largely the credit of Washington's superior educational system.

Though born in Fall River, Mass., he was graduated from "Old Central" along with Emory Wilson, Stephen Kramer, and others who are making history for the Capital City. In 1882 he was graduated from Columbian University, and the following year was made head of the department of mathematics at Business High School. At the same time he was conducting the course in civil engineering and engineering mathematics at George Washington University in the afternoon and evening classes. For six years he carried through to an accomplished career of service as supervisor of the third division was followed by his appointment to the assistant superintendent, July 1, 1910.

He is a member of the National Education Association, the Federal School Teachers' Club, the Monday Evening Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. His new textbook on elementary mathematics is ready for publication and is making contributions have spread his reputation as an educator. He is a member of the Church of the Covenant and a lover of outdoor life and sports.

Dr. and Mrs. Davidson and Mr. and Mrs. Seiden N. Ely were the guests of honor at a beautifully appointed luncheon tendered them by the nineteen teachers of the Eastern School "Friday at high noon. The cooking room, where the dainties were served, was decorated with green and white, the school colors. The affair was so cleverly managed that no teacher was obliged to absent herself from the class room during the school session.

The wintry weather of the past few weeks has interfered with regular attendance at night schools all over the city. Appropriation for these schools is so limited that it is impossible to keep them open during the winter months. In the month of March, the second of three weeks in March, Algebra classes have been opened at the Franklin and Wallish schools and business arithmetic and bookkeeping begun. A new cooking class was opened in the northeast last Wednesday evening.

Gustav Doy's beautiful illustrations of "The Ancient Mariner" will appear in the students of Business High last Tuesday morning in a series of magic lantern slides. It was done as an aid to their course in English. Miss Edna Clark, of the English department, briefly explained each slide.

Children of the Sixth division were given a treat last Thursday by Mr. Eastwood, proprietor of the Dials. He always fascinating experiences of Chardreilly held their entire attention. Morning and afternoon schools attended in rotation, and all day pupils came after 2 o'clock. Many mothers and teachers were present in the afternoon. "The Dials," which is a part of the school English course, is being prepared for exhibition. On Monday the Boy Scouts were given three talks—the story of Nathan Hale, the story of Molly Pitcher, and the evolution of the Boy Scout.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Teachers' Aid and Amity Association was held at the Franklin School on Saturday at 10 o'clock. This organization, which has a membership of 23, has added nearly \$400 to its permanent fund and over \$500 to its annuity fund during the year. Since its organization it has paid as benefits more than \$2,000 and twenty annuities or beneficiaries are now receiving the assistance due to years of service.

At Tech a schedule of absence "exams" covering English, "math," science, domestic and shop work will take place between January 22 and 24. Pupils receive the equivalent of a week's work are required to make it up in this way.

Webb School was the scene of a pleasant gathering of mothers Thursday afternoon, when Dr. Lamb gave a helpful talk on the general physical rearing of children. Food, dress, and treatment during the adolescent period were carefully discussed. Miss Rutherford encouraged the mothers to attend night cooking classes to assist in a knowledge of food values. Miss Hendley explained the teachers' retirement bill, and a resolution was passed and will be forwarded to Congress, favoring the bill.

A 19 cent lunch is a recent innovation at Tech. Two kinds of sandwiches, a cup of soup, and a choice of dessert sound good to hungry, healthy boys and girls. Often the supply is exhausted before the lunch hour is nearly over. Profits from the luncheon are deposited at "Pupils' Bank" over at Business.

Relaxation periods of ten minutes each every two hours are arranged in the schedule of each day's work at Business. In good weather all pupils indulge in what is known as a "walk around." Passing out of any door, they make the entire circuit of the square covered by the building and enter by the same door. When the winter is inclement a military officer puts the boys through a drill of the manual, and Miss Sanderlin appoints centers to do the same for the girls.

Mr. S. N. Ely, supervisor of the Fifth division, called a meeting of all his teachers last Wednesday afternoon to discuss matters relating to the semester. Teachers of Seventh and Eighth grade were present. The occasion was the attention of their classes to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, which occurs on February 1.

Much genuine pleasure was given to the boys and girls of Business High by Charles Jones, one of the founders of the Alumni Association, and Mr. Robert Tracy. Mr. Tracy is a genius in the line of clever sayings and some that he gave his own composition; others were popular, well known school sayings. A chorus of twenty-five of the schoolboys hummed an effective accompaniment to his obligato. Both men are extremely popular with the school.

Friday afternoon at 5:30 a large number of interested parents and teachers of the Emory-Edgington Association listened to the able address of Dr. Folmer on the "Renewal of Life." Mrs. Robert Folmer, gave a stirring talk advocating the penning of teachers.

Next Wednesday, the third and fourth basketball teams at Western High meet and later the decision made as to the personnel of the representative team of the school. Much interclass work has been done and an unusual number of girls have entered into the sport. The final team selected will be a strong one.

Mr. W. T. Hughes, superintendent of schools in Alexandria County, with Miss Goring, principal of the Washington Normal School, and Miss Whiting and Miss Parkman, of the teaching staff, met the teachers of Alexandria County in round-table conferences last Saturday. Efforts are made by our school officials to cooperate with the workers in the Alexandria County for the betterment of the rural schools. As 50 per cent of the county teachers are Washington Normal graduates.



MR. ERNEST L. THURSTON.

Assistant superintendent of schools.

times, we naturally take a motherly interest in them.

Only boys who have had two full years of drawing or its equivalent, and show unusual proficiency in designing, are eligible for the art metal course at Tech. It is a course of two years and very attractive to most boys.

Miss Elizabeth V. Brown, director of primary instruction, has an interesting fourth grade geography exhibit, arranged in logical sequence, in her office. It deals with the manufacturing interests of the city, and traces a product from the raw state to the finished, useful, and usable article of commerce. The paper demonstration is particularly fine, but the bakery model, the low plant, and the lumber mill are wonderfully realistic.

Thursday, January 25, is the date fixed for examinations by supervising principals of doubtful pupils for entrance to high schools. Announcements of results will be made by Eighth grade B principals on Monday, January 29.

Eighty graduates of Fourth division schools will receive their diplomas from Mrs. Barclay at Thomson School January 22 at 11 o'clock. Mr. W. H. Richardson, proprietor of the Dials, and Mrs. Bennett, president of the Webster Association, will assist in the exercises.

Thirty girls from the Dramatic Association of Central will appear in the "alumni dance" at the performance of "The College Hero," a play given by society leaders in the interests of Noel House. They will wear the classic cap and gown, and will be drilled and chaperoned by Miss Weber, their instructor.

The beautiful exhibit of pictures of American national parks which has been open to the public during the week will be packed and forwarded to a Massachusetts university next Wednesday. Few people know that in Utah there is a natural bridge, under the span of which the bridge might be comfortably placed, with fifty-one feet between the Goddard of Liberty and the arch of the bridge.

A further effort will be made to engage Miss Jane Adams for the teachers' lecture course now in progress at the M Street High School.

Last night H. C. Bruce has arranged with United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton to speak to the officers and teachers of the schools on Tuesday, February 6, at 2:30 in the M Street High School. All officers and teachers are expected to be present. The public is invited.

## JOHN AND SIDNEY.

The perversity of the theatrical temperament is illustrated in the new drama that Sidney Drew, brother of John Drew, has for the third time in a period of twelve years been discharged in bankruptcy. Sidney Drew is a good actor—a good actor in the sense that E. M. Holland is a good actor, and W. H. Thompson and J. E. Dodson, Harry Ashkin, the majority of the actors in the La Halle opera houses, are talking about the Drew brothers, Sidney and John, the other day, and said:

"When I was a boy in Philadelphia stock company at the famous old Arch Street Theater, it was a family company, in that their brilliant sister, the late George Drew Barrymore, was a member; while Mrs. John Drew herself often took part in the revivals and occasionally in the new plays. But, of the two boys, Sidney was regarded as the cleverer; none of us ever took John Drew seriously in those days. His mother herself said: 'She was often heard to express wonder as to what to do with John; for, she would say, 'acting is not for him.' I can clearly recall how the newspapers there were wont to say John Drew when he returned annually in later years as the leading man of the Daily company. Yet he has for years maintained the position of our foremost high comedian, while Sidney, whom we all thought of as a comedian, was regarded as an artistic failure, is heard of now and again as a brilliant only. Even in his younger days Sidney was a fine all-round comedian, playing parts like Tony Lombardi, Bob Acres, and Moses in 'The School for Scandal' better than anybody else then in the 'stock' save the late Roland Reed. His manner is a vivacious, airy way that I have time and again given serious consideration to asking him to play Alexander Carr's part of Lido in 'Louisiana Louis' on tour. I am sure that I regard too highly the Philadelphia associations of my youth, however, for last season I wasted days of precious time in trying to get another gifted but baffling member of the family to replace Mr. Carr as the Italian in 'The Sweetest Girl in Paris.' I mean Lionel Barrymore, to my thinking the most gifted of Mrs. Drew's grandchildren."

## GROWS IN PUBLIC FAVOR.

Civil Service Ideas of President Taft Commended.

From the Indianapolis News.

The President's message speaks in the highest terms of the result of the application of the civil service system, which began about thirty years ago. The politicians get less work out of the public employes than they used to, but the country, which pays the salaries, gets more. In spite of the opposition of the spoilsman, the system has grown in public favor, and the President would have the classified service, which is pretty independent of the politicians, expanded to take in more of the employes.

## Political Pot Still Boils.

From the Indianapolis News.

That old wave at Washington won't stop the political pot from boiling, though. Not a bit of it!

In France, Cokes has been licensed a Scotch bottling machine, which transforms the stout into Cokes.